

U3A Bird Watching at Bushy Park

Tuesday 18th February 2025

We were a small group of four for this morning's chilly, but dry, walk around the lakes of Bushy Park.

There were the usual Coots and Mallards on the first lake with several Black-headed Gulls and one Black-backed Gull. Two Swans were gliding across the lake. On the banks were several noisy Jackdaws. Moorhens were also scurrying across the banks to enter the water. A pair of Canada Geese flew noisily across in front of us and were later seen flying back again. A group of five Feral Pigeons were pecking on the banks. Their plumage is really beautiful when viewed closely.

As we left the banks of the lake and entered the woods Pat spotted a Green Woodpecker flying across into the trees. We also were treated to a mating display of two Egyptian Geese!

A group of Fallow Deer walked slowly across in front of us including one white one. I don't know if the noisy call of a Canada Goose spooked them, but they suddenly took flight and dashed across the field.

A Robin appeared on the trunk of a tree and the teacher/teacher call of a Great Tit was heard - Spring is on its way. Nearing the Pheasantry we also heard the yaffle call of the Green Woodpecker. We were then very surprised to see a parrot on a lead, sitting on the shoulder of a café visitor!

We walked round to the small lake hoping to see the Mandarin duck which frequents its banks, but it did not appear today. There were however five male Mallards swimming with one lone female and some more Coots. The very noisy Ring-necked Parakeets were flying around in the branches of the trees opposite. A Grey Heron was perched on a branch overlooking the water.

As Pat returned to her car she saw some Tufted Ducks on the lake, plus two more Swans.

Not many unusual birds to list today, but a very pleasant morning in the fresh air.

Barbara Howse